bers of Parliament during the current year for allotment of telephone connections to the handicapped persons, in Delhi; if so, what are the details thereof, month-wise; and

(c) what are the details of action taken on each of these applications and if no action has been taken as yet, what are the reasons therefor and by when all the pending cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS) SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Separate records in respect of recommendations from Members of Parliament for telephone connections in individual cases for handicapped persons are not maintained. These cases are decided on merits of each case and decision is intimated to the concerned person.

New Oilfield Discovered in the Western Offshore

4573. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new oilfield has been discovered in the Western Offshore recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI (BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Since July, 1988, oil and gas have been discovered in three wells; two in Daman Offshore and one in Bombay Offshore. The results of intitial testing are as under :—

Name of well	Location	Initial flow rate	Choke size
SD-1	85 Km. South West of Daman	1025 barrels of oil and 220102 cubic mts. of gas, per day.	1/2''
SD-4	About 50 Km. West South West of Daman	1003 barrels of oil and 88,700 cubic mts. gas, per day.	1/2''
R-10-1	About 15 Km. South of Ratna field.	2227 barrels of oil and 22120 cubic mts. of gas, per day.	1/2"

The production potential and other details of the Daman and R-10 structures will be known after delineation.

Indigenous Production of Telecommunication Equipments

4574. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAPSINGH: Will the Minsiter of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only a few of the manufacturers to whom licences were issued for the production of telecommunication equipments in the private sector have been able to start production;

(b) what are the reasons for lack of interest among the licenced manufacturers;

(c) whether this state of affairs is forcing Government to increase imports of telecommunication equipments;

(d) what are the names of foreign companies, contract value, contract date, delivery schedule and quantity of various types of telecommunication equipments in the case of each order for imports of equipment placed on foreign firms by Government so far since April, 1987; and

(e) what will be the level of dependence of telecommunication equipmen t imports by the end of the Seventh Plan period and what steps are being taken to reduce imports to save precious foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) and (b) Out of 75 letters of intant issued to private manufacturers for manufacture of telecommunication equipments, 29 have been converted into industrial licences. In view of the liberalised policy for industrial licensing, the interest amongst the licensed manufacturers for the manufacture of telecommunications equipment is considered satsifactory.

(c) No, sir.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) The level of dependence on import for telecommunication equipment will be minimum and only be in those areas where indigenous manufacture is not considered viable. Indigenous production has been planned for practically all telecommunication equipment to minimise imports.

Representation of Indian Medical Association for Exempting Life Savings Drug from Tax Net

4575. Shri S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of the Indian Medical Association has requested the Central Government to exempt all the life saving drugs from the tax net and also to make them available to the general public, including the needy poor at subsidised rates; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The Indian Medical Association has represented to the Kelkar Committee that Exicse Duty, Octroi and other Taxes should be removed while fixing the prices of the drugs.

Sales Turnover of Drugs

4576. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3305 given in the